REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-32 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 16, 31 and 32 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1 and 16.

Drawings

The Examiner has not formally accepted the drawings filed on April 27, 2001. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate whether the filed formal drawings are acceptable.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 112

Claims 1, 16, and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for the use of the relative term "limited" that rendered the claims indefinite. Claims 1, 16, and 32 have been amended in this reply to eliminate the relative phrase. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 102

Claims 1 - 4, 9-10, 16-20, 24-25, and 31-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 5,758,343 ("Vigil"). To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

For anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. Any feature not directly taught must be inherently present.

The present invention teaches a method of entry distribution in which a client sends requests to a chaining backend server, and the chaining backend server forwards the request to a remote server. The remote server processes the request and the results are returned to the

original client. The chaining backend, specifically, is a type of database plug-in that acts as a multiplexer.

The Examiner asserts that Vigil teaches that the chaining backend is a type of database plug-in that acts as a multiplexer. In fact, Vigil teaches that "the QUIPU directory service agent loads all of the information it handles into the main memory of the server when the directory service process is started," (*see* Vigil column 4, lines 32-34). Further, Vigil teaches that the directory service agent is responsible for storing and managing information near the root of the X.500 directory information tree (*see* Vigil column 4, lines 41-48). In contrast, the present invention teaches that a chaining backend acts as an LDAP multiplexer and has no (or very limited) persistent storage capability (*see* instant specification, page 4, paragraph [0057]). The storage and managing of all information contemplated by Vigil defeats the purpose of the chaining backend (and its behaving as a multiplexer) recited in the claims of the present invention. The chaining backend does not require the overhead (*i.e.*, main memory of a server sufficient to load all information needed upon start up, logic and memory in the service agents necessary to store and manage information) as taught by Vigil. Clearly, Vigil does not teach that the chaining backend is a type of database plug-in that acts as a multiplexer as recited in the claims of the present invention. Further, as for independent claim 31, in addition to the reasons cited above, Vigil does not teach a means for supporting pluggable distribution logic.

In view of the above, Vigil fails to teach or suggest the present invention as recited in claims 1, 16, 31, and 32. Thus, claims 1, 16, 31, and 32 are patentable over Vigil. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 103

Claims 6-8, and 21-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as obvious over Vigil in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,633,872 ("Ambrosini"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to

combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure. See MPEP section 706.02(j).

For at least the same reasons described above, independent claims 1 and 16 are patentable over Vigil. Claims 6-8 and 21-23 depend directly from claim 1 or 16. Therefore, claims 6-8 and 21-23 are patentable over Vigil for at least the same reasons. Ambrosini does not teach or suggest what Vigil fails to teach; specifically, that the chaining backend is a type of database plug-in that acts as a multiplexer. Therefore, claims 6-8 and 21-23 are patentable over Vigil in view of Ambrosini. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 11, 13-14, 26, and 28-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as obvious over Vigil in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,052,681 ("Harvey"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

For at least the same reasons described above, independent claims 1 and 16 are patentable over Vigil. Claims 11, 13-14, 26, and 28-29 depend directly from claim 1 or 16. Therefore, claims 11, 13-14, 26, and 28-29 are patentable over Vigil for at least the same reasons. Harvey does not teach or suggest what Vigil fails to teach; specifically, that the chaining backend is a type of database plug-in that acts as a multiplexer. Therefore, claims 11, 13-14, 26, and 28-29 are patentable over Vigil in view of Harvey. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 12 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as obvious over Vigil in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,209,036 ("Aldred"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

For at least the same reasons described above, independent claims 1 and 16 are patentable over Vigil. Claims 12 and 27 depend directly from claim 1 or 16. Therefore, claims 12 and 27 are patentable over Vigil for at least the same reasons. Aldred does not teach or suggest what Vigil fails to teach; specifically, that the chaining backend is a type of database plug-in that acts as a multiplexer. Therefore, claims 12 and 27 are patentable over Vigil in view of Aldred. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.
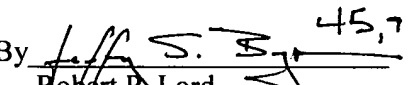
Claims 15 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as obvious over Vigil in view of Ambrosini, Harvey, and Aldred. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

For at least the same reasons described above, independent claims 1 and 16 are patentable over Vigil. Claims 15 and 30 depend directly from claim 1 or 16. Therefore, claims 15 and 30 are patentable over Vigil for at least the same reasons. Ambrosini, Harvey, and Aldred do not teach or suggest what Vigil fails to teach; specifically, that the chaining backend is a type of database plug-in that acts as a multiplexer. Therefore, claims 15 and 30 are patentable over Vigil in view of Ambrosini, Harvey, and Aldred. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 13220.005001).

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